THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) (a) 80 bids have been received for the development of small and marginal oil and gas fields in Gujarat.

(b) Gujarat State Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, an undertaking of the Government of Gujarat, has submitted 12 bids, either on its own or in consortium with other companies.

(c) No, Sir.

ONGC'S invistigatlon at Valiant Pandugal (Tamil Nadu)

2933. SHRI MISA R. GANESHAN: SHRI J.S. RAJU: SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has conducted investigation at Vallam Pandugai in Shiyali Taluk in Tamil Nadu for Petroleum and Natural gas;

(b) if so, what are the findings of ONGC;

(c) whether this area contains lignite deposits; and

- (d) if so, what action has been taken to develop this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Six exploratory wells namely, Chidambaram-1, Madanam-1, Komarakshi-1, Mugaiyur-1 Mugaiyur-2 and Kollidam-l (plate-1) have been drilled in the area and all these proved dry except Madanam-1 in which a non commercial indication of gas was obtained. The area is still under the exploration programme of ONGC.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Norma for appointing LPG Agency

2934. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: SHRI J.S. RAJU: SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms followed in alloting LP Gas agencies;

(b) what is the population required for alloting LPG Agency;

(c) whether more than one agency is being appointed in case the population is double; and

(d) the name of the appointing authority of LPG Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) LPG distributorships are opened at places with a population of 20,000 and above, in a phased manner, subject to product availability and economic viability.

(c) Yes Sir. It depends on the potential of the location and the product availability.

(d) LPG distributors are appointed by the three oil marketing companies, namely, Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation, on the recommendations of Oil Selection Boards.

Banning of Companies for Dealing with Ministry of Petroleum and its undertakings

2935. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA.: SHRI SARADA MOHANTY - SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: